

Local Residents Decorate Homes for Holidays



FIRST PLACE WINNERS in the Torrance Junior Chamber of Commerce Christmas home decorating contest are pictured above. Winner in the novelty division, (left) is the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Burr of 5006

Vista del Vegas, Mr. and Mrs. Troy Stiles, of 22132 Halldale, took first place honors in the religious theme division. Placing second in the novelty category was Wayne G. Harvey, 22318 Avis Ct. Mr. and Mrs. Paul



Chavez, 2406 Del Amo Blvd., were named second place winners with a religious entry. The winners will be hosted at dinner Thursday evening by the Jaycees. The banquet will be held at Caesar's Restaurant. Judg-

ing was completed last night. Mick Bock was the project chairman.

(PRESS photos)

Phone Santa

Area youngsters again this year can talk person-to-person to Santa Claus. **THE PRESS** in cooperation with Anserfone is sponsoring a "Phone Santa" program. Publisher Bill Zappas announced this week. Children may speak with Santa on Thursday and Friday between the hours of 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. Santa Claus' phone number is FA 0-1311.

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GUNMEN ROB MARKET

PAIR CHANGE PLEAS IN BOOKMAKING CASE HERE

Two of 11 persons indicated by the county grand jury on bookmaking and conspiracy charges this week changed their pleas to guilty in a superior court appearance. The pair, Milford Clark, 43, of 22303 Susana Ave., Torrance, and Edward W. Castino, 61, of 708 S. Broadway, Redondo Beach, had earlier pleaded innocent to charges contained in the indictments which were handed down Sept. 26.

The 11 persons were accused after the district attorney's office uncovered bookmaking activities while investigating the activities of three Torrance policemen.

The bookies were operating "openly," investigators said, "with little caution and no visible interference from Torrance authorities."

Superior Court Judge David Williams ordered Clark and Castino to return on Jan. 16 for probation hearing and sentencing.

Bicycle Safety Work Continued By School Board

Members of the Torrance Unified School District board voted unanimously Monday to continue a police department program stressing bicycle safety.

Officer Don Hartel, the department's public education officer, reported to the board on the project which includes both riding instruction and classroom sessions. Hartel's report stated that 50 to 60 per cent of the students at 28 schools took part in the program.

The project, which began in 1961, is a joint effort of the police, firemen and PTA members, Hartel said.

An estimated 90 per cent of all students who received the classroom instruction, the report said, passed the written and riding examinations. Hartel lauded the work of the teachers in instructing the children.

The program does not upset the routine of the day and a minimum of time is consumed, it was stated.

"Hundreds of off-duty hours are provided by the fire Dept.," Hartel said.

Mayor Isen's Drunk Driving Trial Continued

Drunk driving trial of Mayor Albert E. Isen of Torrance was continued yesterday until Feb. 3.

Isen was arrested Oct. 10 by the California Highway Patrol after the car he allegedly was driving crashed into a parked truck near the intersection of 228th St. and Petroleum. The mayor was booked on charges of misdemeanor drunk driving after he failed to pass a field sobriety test, officers said.

Thrial is scheduled to be held in the Compton Municipal Court.

County Sets Street Jobs for Carson

Improvements totaling nearly \$60,000 were approved for two Carson area streets yesterday by the County Board of Supervisors. The projects were petitioned by residents in the area.

The board voted to pave 214th Street east from Main Street at an estimated cost of \$30,200.

The street will be paved to a width of 30 feet and the project will include installation of curbs and gutters.

Pavings of 213th St. between Main St. and Bolsa Ave. was authorized at an estimated cost of \$19,573.

Plans call for the paving of a 12-foot-wide strip along both the north and south sides of 213th Street and a 10-foot-wide strip on the west side of Bolsa Avenue, north about 145 feet from 213th Street. Curbs and gutters will be built on part of the project.

Jr. Engineer Testifies in City Probe

Testimony was given yesterday by Raymond Saukola, a junior civil engineer, in the continuing state attorney general's office probe into alleged irregularities in Torrance's police department and other city agencies.

A spokesman for Attorney General Stanley Mosk said in Los Angeles yesterday that City Engineer Walter Nollac would soon be requested to appear again at the investigative hearing.

Nollac is one of several municipal employees who have been questioned in the probe.

S.D. Freeway Crash Kills Woman, 34

A 34-year-old Long Beach woman was dead and her companion critically injured today as a result of a grinding traffic crash on the San Diego Freeway at the Harbor interchange late Sunday night, the California Highway Patrol reported.

Dead on arrival at Harbor General Hospital was Josephine Jackson, 34, of 1183 E. 12th St. She was a passenger in a car driven by Floyd Edward, 29, of 8814 S. Central Ave., the CHP said.

Edward was hospitalized with a fractured leg, lacerations, serious head injuries and internal injuries.

Other passengers in Edward's car were injured. They are James Lewis, 22, of 734 E. 84th St., Los Angeles, and Mary Blunt, 20, of 1183 E. 12th St., Long Beach. Lewis was treated and released at Harbor General Hospital, and Miss Blunt is under observation in the hospital.

Out of Control
California Highway patrolmen said Edwards car went out of control on the freeway, rolled over and crashed against a freeway light standard.

For High Schools

Name Change Fails

A proposal by School Board President Bert Lynn to rename Torrance's four high schools died on the vine Monday night.

Lynn suggested originally that Torrance High School be renamed John F. Kennedy Memorial High School of Torrance.

Board members, in discussing the proposal, indicated that the present names of

the schools — North, South, West and Torrance High — were very adequate and that a change would involve too many problems. Mrs. Polly Watts told the board that a name change would necessitate changing the school nicknames, colors and other traditions.

Board member Dr. Kurt Shery charged that "every-

one is on an emotional bing" to name public buildings in the late president's honor. He suggested that there are many from this area who deserve to be so honored, "Mrs. Elaine Lewis," Dr. Shery said, "is one who deserves such an honor." Mrs. Lewis, a former home teacher who died last year, dedicated her life's efforts to the school district, he said.

William Hanson said he rather likes the unique way the local schools have been named. "I see no reason the names should be changed," Hanson told the board.

Lynn said that while Torrance High is named after the city's founder, the others should "commemorate some of the historical or educational moments of one's life."

The school board took no action on Lynn's proposal.

Council Briefs

Torrance City Council last night:

Received and accepted a letter from B. C. Riggs requesting a withdrawal of a petition for a zone change from R-2 to R-3 at 24433 Park St. in the Walteria section of the city.

Concurred with a recommendation by the planning commission for denial of a parcel of land at 2652 Brian Ave., which was to be rezoned from R-1 to R-3.

Agreed to a 90-day delay to study a proposed zone change for two lots located at 4347 and 4343 West 178th St. from R-1 to C-2. During the delay the council instructed residents of the area to form a committee to work with the planning commission in studying the situation.

Approved a tentative tract map for a tract located southwesterly of Bluff St., easterly of Wilmington Ave.

Approved a final tract map submitted by R. A. Watt. The tract contains 37 lots located south of Sepulveda Blvd., westerly and southwesterly of Maple Ave. and 235th St.

Approved a final tract map made by Don Wilson for a tract to be located on the west side of Crenshaw Blvd., northerly and southwesterly of 235th St.

Accepted a deed for drain-

age retention basin to be utilized for drainage in tracts under development west of Crenshaw Blvd.

Approved the first reading of an ordinance changing the zone from R-1 to C-2 on property situated at the northeast corner of Crenshaw and Rolling Hills Road. A zone change was also granted to property adjoining the before mentioned land.

Received from members of the Hollywood Riviera Sportsmen's Club \$600 to be used toward construction of shuffleboard courts in Walteria Park for use by senior citizens and others. Council also instructed City Manager Wade Peebles to see if additional funds could be raised by the city to obtain the \$2000 needed for the

(Continued on Page Two)

Thug Threatens Men With Knife

Two Torrance men and a woman market clerk were victims of bandits within 15 minutes of each other last night.

Barbara Cozart, 26, a checker at Lucky Market, 2515 Torrance Blvd., was approached in her check stand by a neat, well-groomed man posing as a customer. "Get a bag and put your money in it," the man told Miss Cozart as he pulled back his coat to reveal a revolver.

Miss Cozart told officers the bandit demanded only the bills refusing to take the change in her cash register. In addition to \$450 in cash the gunman made off with a loaf of French bread, police said.

The suspect then warned the market employee not to speak and started for the exit. Miss Cozart, however, yelled, "I've been held-up" when the bandit was only a few feet from the check stand. The man then bolted through the door and was

driven away in a car by an accomplice, police reported. Officers were hampered in their search for the gunman by the thick fog which had choked the area.

A knife-wielding man robbed a pair of Torrance men of \$530 after he apparently was surprised as he attempted to burglarize a home at 2047 West 238th St.

Jack A. Deats, 50, a resident of that address, and Ralph E. Hurst, of Redondo Beach, were held at knife point while the bandit removed their wallets, police reported.

The money was taken from Deats' pocket and from a cigar box hidden in the house, officers said.



ASSISTING the local post office during the Christmas rush are members of the Torrance unit of the National Guard. Each year the local armory is taken over by the post office and staked high with holiday mail. Above

from the left, SP-4 Russell Mead, SP-5 Gerald Roberts and William Kirwan, sergeant for the unit, finish loading a jeep for a delivery run.

—PRESS Photo

ONLY
5
MORE
SHOPPING
DAYS 'TIL
CHRISTMAS

